

97-72

Environmental Water Caucus

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San Francisco, CA 94147-1958

Telephone 415-931-3414

February 26, 1997

Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: EWC CRITERIA FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE CALFED PHASE II ALTERNATIVES

Dear Lester:

This letter transmits the consensus position of the Environmental Water Caucus on the criteria that we will use to evaluate the ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, and storage and conveyance components of the CALFED Phase II alternatives. (A number of fundamental issues relating to the need for user-based financing, appropriate cost-sharing, and environmental assurances will be the subject of a future letter). Please note that these criteria represent the consensus of a wider range of environmental and fishing groups than those that are able to participate actively in CALFED workshops or BDAC meetings, including many grassroots groups whose support will be critical to the ultimate success of the CALFED Bay-Delta program.

The criteria reiterate our primary goal of comprehensive ecosystem restoration, and our support for nonstructural solutions, as the best and most cost-effective way to address the related problems of water supply and water quality. At the same time, we believe that any "comprehensive" Bay-Delta solution that fails to cap and ultimately reduce both depletions within and exports from the entire Bay-Delta watershed is doomed to failure, because it will leave in place the unsustainable conditions that already place the environment at risk and perpetuate patterns of continued habitat degradation and inadequate streamflow conditions.

In this regard, it is important to note that our support for the CALFED water supply element as part of a comprehensive and balanced program does not relate to new or extended commitments of Bay-Delta water (for which consumptive use offsets will have to be found). Rather, our support relates to efforts that will reduce the existing over-

commitment of Bay-Delta water supplies as well as lessen the severity and frequency of shortages for all remaining water supply commitments through increased efficiencies, direct acquisitions, and market-oriented transfers and exchanges.

The attached criteria are consistent with the principles which we have articulated throughout the CALFED process. They have been the subject of significant discussion among our community and the resulting criteria have a broad level of support. EWC cannot support an alternative that is inconsistent with these principles.

We further wish to reiterate that full implementation of CVPIA as a foundation of the Bay-Delta Accord and a base on which CALFED must build remains a central tenet of our participation in and support for the CALFED Bay/Delta program.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on developing a sustainable long-term plan for restoring the Bay/Delta.

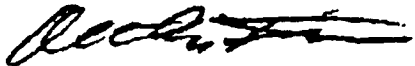
Sincerely,



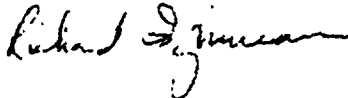
John Beuttler
United Anglers of California



Peter L. Candy
Surfrider Foundation



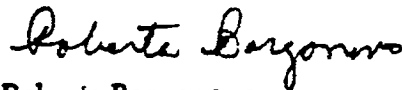
Arthur Feinstein
Golden Gate Audubon Society



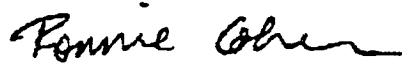
Richard Izmirian
Ca. Sportfishing Protection Alliance



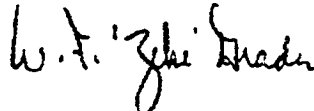
Betsy Reifsnider
Friends of the River



Roberta Borgonovo
League of Women Voters of California



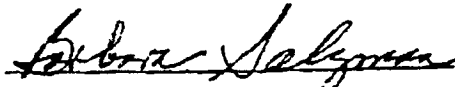
Ronnie Ann Cohen
Natural Resources Defense Council



William F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Assn.s

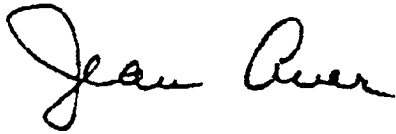


Barry Nelson
Save San Francisco Bay Association



Barbara Salzman
Marin Audubon Society

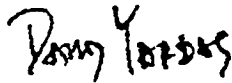
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Jean Auer
Environmental Water Caucus



David Behar
The Bay Institute of San Francisco



David Yardas
Environmental Defense Fund